

American Embassy Riga, Latvia



**Consular Services for
Americans in Latvia:
Tips for Visitors and
Residents**



CONSULAR SERVICES FOR AMERICAN CITIZENS IN LATVIA

The American Embassy in Riga provides a wide range of services to American citizens in Latvia. The Consular Section is staffed by American officers and Latvian staff who can help you with a variety of issues that may confront visitors in Latvia. This pamphlet is designed to help Americans understand the services the Consular Section can offer and to provide some useful information that may help you during your stay in Latvia. Please note that this pamphlet is not all-inclusive, and if you have a problem or question not addressed here, please call us, e-mail us or stop by. **We are here to help you!**

The Consular Section is located at Raina Bulvaris 7, Riga, LV-1510, and it can be reached by telephone at (371) 6-703-6200, by fax (371) 6-781-4088 or by e-mail AskConsular@USRiga.lv. You may also wish to visit our website – <http://www.usembassy.lv>. Our Section is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 to 12:00 and from 14:00 to 16:00 except on Latvian and American holidays. We offer American citizen services every afternoon, but in a case of an emergency you may also come in every morning. Our after-hours emergency number is **(371) 2920-5708**.

CONTENTS

Citizen Services

- Notarial Services...3
- Passport Services...3
- Registration...3
- Registering a Birth...4
- Family Emergencies...4
- Death of American Citizens...4
- Federal Benefits, U.S. Taxes and Voting...5
- Arrests, Latvian Authorities and Legal Disputes...5
- What We Cannot Do...5

Useful Information

- General Information about Latvia...6
- Entry Requirements to Latvia...6
- Crime and Credit Cards...7
- Latvian Customs Regulations...7
- Mail and Phone Services...8
- Health Concerns and Medical Emergencies...9
- Banking Services...10
- Non-Immigrant Visas for Latvians...10
- Marriage in Latvia...11
- Immediate Family Immigration...11
- Foreign Embassies and Consulates in Riga...13
- Visa-free Travel for United States Citizens...14
- American Embassies in the Neighboring Countries...16
- Latvia Tourism Information on the Web...16
- Tourist Information Centers in Riga...16
- Riga Transport Information...17
- Airline Information...17
- Ferry Information...17
- Taxis in Riga...18
- Car Rental...18
- Hotels in Riga...19
- Hotels in Biggest Latvian Cities...20
- Churches in Riga...21
- Restaurants in Riga...21
- Educational Opportunities for Foreigners... 22
- Translating and Interpreting Services... 22
- Useful Expressions in Latvian...23

Notarial Services

The Consular Section can provide you a variety of notarial services. By treaty, a Consular Officer can only notarize documents that will be used in the United States. If a document signed by a person located in the U.S. must be notarized for use in Latvia, that document should be notarized in the U.S. and then submitted to the office of the Secretary of State in which the notarial was performed to be affixed with an Apostille. A document bearing a properly issued Apostille is legal and valid in Latvia. If a document issued in Latvia needs to be legalized, please contact the Consular Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. More information is available in the Consular Section.

The Consular Officer is available to do notarials Monday through Friday from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.



Passport Services

Americans should safeguard passports as they would any other valuable. If your passport has been lost or stolen in Latvia, or if you need to renew an expiring passport, come to the Consular Section between 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. to apply for one. If possible, please bring with you the following: a photo ID (e.g., a driver's license), a birth or naturalization certificate, your expiring passport or its copy, two color passport size photos (5 by 5 cm)¹. In many cases, the passport can be issued within five business days. When applying for a first-time passport or renewing a passport, for children under the age of 16, the presence of both parents together with the child is required. Documents establishing the identity, proof of citizenship and proof of relationship have to be presented.

No fee is charged to add extra pages in your passport. If a name change occurs, you need to apply for a new passport. In this case you would need a court document or a marriage certificate to verify the name change.

Registration

All U.S. citizens residing in Latvia are encouraged to register with the U.S. Embassy in Riga or on-line at <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/>

Registration allows us to:

- replace your passport quickly if it is lost or stolen;
- contact you in case of an emergency;
- release information about your whereabouts to family and friends (if you sign a Privacy Act Waiver);

¹ Available at photoshop „ERIS”, Valnu iela 5, Riga. Business hours: 8:30-19:00 daily, 10:00-17:00 on Saturdays.

- include you in our warden system, which we use to keep Americans advised of what to do in case of an emergency (you will be included in this system only if you give your permission).

To register, you must present your U.S. passport at the Consular Section and complete a simple form. Please see a sample form attached to this pamphlet. There is no charge for this service.



Registering a Birth

A child born to two American citizen parents automatically acquires U.S. citizenship at birth if one of the parents has resided in the U.S. or its outlying possessions before the birth of the child. A child born to one American citizen parent may acquire American citizenship, if the American parent meets the transmission requirement of having resided in the U.S. for at least 5 years, two of which were after attaining the age of 14, prior to the birth of the child.

To register the birth of your child, you should come to the Consular Section and bring with you:

- the Latvian birth certificate
- the parents' marriage certificate, if applicable
- the parent's or parents' proof of U.S. citizenship
- evidence that each parent's previous marriages have been terminated (if applicable)
- evidence of the American citizen parent's residence in the U.S. prior to the birth of the child

Please note that both parents and the child must be present at the interview. After presenting all the necessary documents, you will receive a Consular Report of Birth Abroad, which will serve as a proof of U.S. citizenship.

Family Emergencies

If your family needs to contact you because of an emergency at home or because they are worried about your welfare and cannot reach you directly, they may call the State Department's Office of Overseas Citizens Services at 202-647-5225. The State Department will relay the message to the U.S. Embassy in Riga. The Consular Section will attempt to locate you, pass on urgent messages, and, consistent with your directions in Privacy Act waiver, report back to your family.

Deaths of American Citizens

If an American citizen dies in Latvia, the death should be reported immediately to the Consular Section. If the next-of-kin was not with the citizen at the time of the death, we will notify them of the death and work with them to carry out their wishes with regard to burial or repatriation of the body. The Consular Section can also, with the next-of-kin's

permission; act as a liaison between the family and local authorities. We will also prepare the necessary documents to allow the family to return the body to the U.S., if that is their wish. We also prepare a Report of Death of an American Citizen Abroad, which is issued on the Latvian death certificate and which can be used in the U.S. for most legal purposes.

Federal Benefits, U.S. Taxes and Voting

While there is no representative in Latvia from the Social Security Administration, Department of Veteran's Affairs, IRS, or the DOD Federal Voting Assistance Program, we can provide you with information, forms, and assistance on behalf of these and other federal agencies.

Recipients of U.S. federal benefits, such as Social Security or Veterans' Benefits may be able to receive these benefits in Latvia.

As a U.S. citizen or resident alien, your worldwide income is generally subject to U.S. income tax. The Consular Section has IRS forms and publications for your use. Other forms are available to download from <http://www.irs.gov>. We cannot, however, offer tax advice.

The Consular Section also has information on how to register and apply for absentee ballots for federal and state elections. Keep in mind that you must apply early to vote by absentee ballot.

Arrests, Latvian Authorities and Legal Disputes

While you are in Latvia, you are subject to the Latvian laws and procedures, which are often quite different from those in the U.S. If you are arrested or involved in a dispute with the Latvian authorities, you should ask that the authorities notify us. We cannot get you out of jail, but we can help protect your legitimate interests and ensure that you are not discriminated against. Please keep in mind that while our intervention may help, it can take time. In the end, only the Latvian authorities have the power to resolve a dispute. Should you be kept in police custody, we can provide a list of local attorneys, visit you, and, if you choose, contact your friends and relatives on your behalf. We can also transfer money, food and clothing to prison authorities from your family and friends.

The U.S. Embassy cannot, however, become involved in private legal disputes, such as between you and your Latvian business partner. In these situations, it might be helpful to retain a lawyer.

What We Cannot Do:

- provide American Citizen services to U.S. Resident Aliens (green card holders)
- have Latvian laws waived because you are an American
- give money or a financial guarantee or cash a check
- authenticate seals or signatures from the U.S.
- provide legal advice or representation

- provide postal services, forwarding or storage
- provide access to a fax or e-mail or act as an intermediary for financial transactions
- trace missing persons in the U.S.
- provide medical services
- serve as a travel agency

General Information about Latvia

There are lots of websites providing useful information about the history, geography, population and other issues concerning Latvia. We chose only some:

- <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook> - the CIA fact book about Latvia;
- <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5378.htm> - State Department's country background notes.
- <http://www.lv/> - information and various links to different related sites.

For information about the weather in Latvia, please check:

- <http://www.wunderground.com/global/stations/26422.html> or
- <http://weather.yahoo.com/regional/LGXX.html>

Entry Requirements to Latvia

For U.S. citizens, a passport is required. A visa is not required for stays totaling less than 90 days every six months in a calendar year. Latvian law requires that visitors present a passport as valid for at least three months after their planned stay (for example, if a visitor plans to stay for one month, then a passport valid for four months is required). Individuals who arrive at the border of Latvia and do not meet this requirement are generally denied entry to the country.

For specific requirements, contact the Embassy of Latvia, 2306 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20008; Telephone: (202) 328-2840; e-mail: embassy.usa@mfa.gov.lv. Internet address: <http://www.latvia-usa.org>.

If you decide to stay in Latvia for more than 90 days, you need a residency permit. If you do not apply for one, you risk expulsion or being declared persona non-grata on leaving Latvia. It is possible to get a temporary residence permit to stay in Latvia for maximum one year and you have the rights of multiple entries into the country. Please make sure you contact the Foreigners' Service Center of the Citizenship and Migration Department in a timely manner to ensure that you have not stayed in Latvia illegally. The Citizenship and Migration Department has a toll-free information service (800-7657). The Foreigners' Service Center is located on Alunāna iela 1, Riga, telephone: 67-219-656. A lot of information can also be retrieved from their website - <http://www.pmlp.gov.lv/> or <http://www.ocma.gov.lv> (the same web site in English).



Crime and Credit Cards

Crime in Latvia is generally non-violent, although there have been cases of serious assaults. Street crime is a serious problem, particularly for tourists. Therefore, Americans should take the same precautions as in other major cities to carefully safeguard personal belongings, especially on public transportation, trains and public places. If you become the victim of a crime, you should report it to the local police office. You can call the police by dialing 02 or 112 to make an SOS-call.

Should your credit cards be lost or stolen, you may cancel them by calling the appropriate card company.

- American Express - 1-801-945-9450 or 1-336-393-1111
- Visa – 1-410-581-9994
- Master Card – 1-636-722-7111
- Diners Club – 1-702-797-5532
- Discover – 1-801-902-3100

You can also call First Data Latvia (the bank service center in Latvia) and cancel your lost or stolen card by dialing 67-092-555. The cancellation will be valid in Latvia only. The Bank Service Center can also assist you in contacting your bank. Please make sure that you have your bank information (at least its name and country).

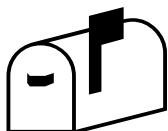
In the unlikely event you should be the victim of a violent crime, please contact us so that we may assist you and help you find resources that may be available to you.

Latvian Customs Regulations

Latvian customs authorities may enforce strict regulations concerning temporary importation into or export from Latvia of items such as firearms, religious materials, antiquities, medications, business equipment, drugs, etc. Foreign currency brought into or brought out of Latvia does not need to be declared.

If you purchase an objet d'art or an antiquity older than 50 years and worth over 300 lats, special permission is required to take the item out of the country. This permission can be obtained from the State Culture Monument Protection Inspection, which is located at Pils iela 20, telephone: 67-229-272. The permission can be issued within two to three business days.

Customs information is available from the Main Customs Board, which is located at 11. Novembra krastmala 17, telephone: 67-111-222.



Mail and Phone Services

In the centre, there are post offices at the following addresses:

- **Brīvības bulvāris 32** (near the Freedom Monument)
Phone: 00-371-6750-2800
Open: Monday - Friday 07:00-21:00, Saturday 08:00-20:00;
Sunday 10:00-18:00,
- **Grēcinieku 1** (Old Town)
Phone: 00-371-67226079
Open: Monday – Friday 7:00-20:00, Saturday 9:00-18:00
- **Stacijas laukums 1** (Origo Shopping Centre, 1st floor)
Phone: 00-371-67073900
Open: Monday - Friday: 9:00-21:00; Saturday 9:00-20:00;
Sunday 10:00-20:00.

You can send and receive faxes at these postal offices. International calls can be made from Lattelecom telephone booths, but you have to purchase an international call card before using the telephone. The card is available at newspaper kiosks, postal offices and in some stores.

Sending a standard letter within Europe costs 45 santimes, to the U.S. – 55 santimes, and locally – 22 santimes.

There are several companies that offer priority mail services in Riga:

- DHL – tel. 8000345, Internet address: <http://www.dhl.lv>, office address: Brīvības iela 55, located also at the Riga International Airport.
- Federal Express – tel. 8005300, 7506010, address: Zemitāna iela 2b.
- EMS – tel. 7018883, address: Stacijas laukums 1.
- UPS – tel. 7805650, address: Ulmaņa Gatve 2.

Calling local numbers both in Riga and other cities: Dial the number as it is. For a number in Riga, the first two digits normally are 67xxxxxx, while numbers in other cities or rural areas start with a two-digit area code.

Calling to Riga from abroad: dial the country code (371) and the seven-digit number.

Calling abroad from Riga: dial 00, followed by the country code and number.

For assistance, please see the Lattelecom website (includes calling instructions, state codes and district codes in Latvia) – <http://www.lattelecom.lv> or call 1188 assistance service. They will also be able to transfer you to the number you want to reach.



Health Concerns and Medical Emergencies

Medical care in Latvia is steadily improving, but it remains limited in several important respects. There are a few private clinics with medical supplies and services, including disposable needles and basic modern diagnostics, which are nearly equal to Western Europe or U.S. standards. However, any major invasive procedures or surgeries in Latvia are not recommended because of lack of equipment and resources. Elderly travelers and those with existing health problems may be at risk because of the lack of equipment and resources. Doctors and hospitals often expect immediate payment in cash, besides, please note that U.S. medical insurance is not always valid in Latvia. For information on health matters, please consult the Center of Disease Control and Prevention via telephone 00 1-77-394-8747 (Traveler's Hotline) or their website: <http://www.cdc.gov/>.

The Embassy website contains a list of English-speaking doctors, hospital addresses and contact information. If there is a medical emergency, you can call the ER by dialing 03.

[**Disclaimer:** The following information has been provided for your convenience only. The Embassy assumes no responsibility for the professional ability or integrity of the individuals or firms listed herein.]

Children's Hospital (Bērnu klīniskā universitātes slimnīca)

Services available also in English

Vienības gatve 45, Riga

Phone: 67-064-400

Emergency: 67-064-498

Intensive care: 67-064-430

Outpatient: 67-064-462

Gaiļezers Hospital

Services available also in English

Hipokrāta iela 2, Riga

Phone: 67-042-424, 67-042-444

Pauls Stradins' University Clinical Hospital (Paula Stradiņa klīniskā universitātes slimnīca)

Services available also in English

Pilsonu iela 13, Riga

Phone: 67-069-600

Private Clinic of I. Katlape

Services available also in English

Brīvības iela 73 (entrance from Bruņinieku iela)

Phone: 67-316-362

Banking Services

There are many banks and licensed currency exchange booths located throughout the city. There are several banks close to the Embassy, such as Nordea, Hansabanka, Parex and Unibanka, which are all located on the corners of Vaļņu and Kaļķu Street (not far from the Freedom Monument and McDonald's). There are lots of ATMs both in Riga and other towns and cities.

For transfer of funds, Western Union offices can be used. Western Union services are available at any branch of Latvijas Krājbanka and at several post offices.

In the centre:

Latvijas Krājbanka, Brīvības iela 40, phone: 67-092-855

Latvijas Krājbanka, Jēkaba iela 2, phone: 67-092-022

Hipotēku banka, Doma laukums 4, phone: 67-774-316

Post Office, Brīvības bulvāris 32, phone: 67-502-800

Post Office, Grēcienieku iela 1, phone: 67-226-079

Post Office, Origo Shopping Centre, Stacijas laukums1, phone: 67-226-079

Non-Immigrant Visas for Latvians

Although negotiations regarding visa free travel for Latvians to the U.S. have started, those Latvians going to visit the United States are required to obtain a U.S. visa in advance. For updated information on the visa free travel to the U.S. please visit the web page of the U.S. State Department at:

http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/without/without_1990.html.

Sometimes U.S. citizens wish to help their Latvian friends or relatives by providing accommodation and/or financial support while the friend/relative studies at a college or university in the U.S. While this is authorized please note that those Latvian nationals who intend to study in the U.S. should apply for student visas (classification F1). Please read information at http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1270.html on F1 visa requirements.

High school students from overseas would normally be able to study in the U.S. for one academic school year on exchange visitor visas (classification J1). Please check http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1267.html for more information on J1 visa requirements. Please contact Embassy Riga by phone or e-mail to request information on the local representatives of accredited exchange sponsors authorized to enroll foreigners on exchange programs.

We recommend that applicants do not buy plane tickets or make any other final travel arrangements before the issuance of a visa. Also, please note that an invitation is not necessary in order to get a U.S. visa.

In short, the **visa application procedure** is as follows:

All applicants are required to pay a **fee** at any Unibanka branch (applicants for J-1 (summer work and travel) and C1/D (seaman's) visas are required to pay only at the

Unibanka Ridzene branch, which is located at Vaļņu iela 11). After paying the fee, the applicant has to ask the Unibanka clerk to schedule an appointment for a **visa interview**.

Please note that applicants over 60, diplomats applying for a B1/B2 visas, or persons renewing used visas of the same category within twelve months of the expiration of the previous visa, do not require visa interviews. They are required to submit the documents personally (for fingerprinting purposes) from 14:00 to 15:00 on Mondays or Thursdays. Applicants aged over 79, as well as government and international institution officials applying for official or diplomatic visas are exempt from the fingerprinting requirement, and documents on their behalf can be submitted on any business day from 14:00 to 16:00. Children under the age of 14 are not fingerprinted, yet both parents must be present at the interview.

Visa applicants are required to **submit** a valid passport, a bank receipt, a recent photo sized 5 X 5 centimeters, and completed visa application forms to the Consular Section. Information about applicant's ties to Latvia can also be helpful to adjudicate the visa case.

Please note that this information is very brief. For more information and details on non-immigrant visas, please see the link: <http://www.usembassy.lv/EN/site/V/nvisa/nonimmigrant/apply> or contact the Consular Section via telephone or e-mail.

Marriage in Latvia

If you are planning to get married in Latvia, please note the following:

- Latvia does not permit the marriage of two foreigners.
- Latvia recognizes both church and civil weddings.
- All documents that were not issued in Latvia need to have an Apostille. Please make sure you obtain it before you depart the United States or make any final wedding plans.
- All documents that are not in Latvian must have a certified translation.

For more information about marriage, please see our website: <http://www.usembassy.lv/EN/site/C/marriage>. Information is also available at the Consular Section or at the civil registry offices.

Immediate Family Immigration

- **Spouse and unmarried children**

If you intend to return to the United States with your Latvian spouse, you will need to file for an immigrant visa (petition I-130 available at <http://uscis.gov>). Generally, immigrant visa petitions can be filed at any USCIS office in the U.S.

The U.S. Embassy in Riga accepts immigrant petitions from American citizens filing on behalf of **their spouse and unmarried children under 21** (including step-children if the marriage creating the status of stepchild occurred before the child reached the age of eighteen years), **if the petitioner and all beneficiaries reside in Latvia**. In order to file

the I-130 petition with Embassy Riga, petitioners are required to show that they have maintained continuous residency in Latvia for at least the last six months.

You will need to submit various documents, such as an immigrant visa petition (form I-130), biographic information forms for you and your spouse, your passports, photos for each of you, birth certificates (if you obtained your U.S. citizenship via naturalization, please also give us the naturalization certificate), marriage license and proof of termination of previous marriages, if applicable. Please note that all documents not into English should have notarized translations. All the forms can be obtained at the Embassy during public hours (business days from 14:00 to 16:00), as well as at the Embassy's website:

<http://www.usembassy.lv/EN/site/V/nvisa/immigration/immipetitions>. After the petition is accepted at the Embassy, it will be forwarded to the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw, Poland for final adjudication. If the petition is approved by Embassy Warsaw the beneficiary will receive a notification about its approval and official guidance from Embassy Warsaw on steps to take to pursue the immigrant visa application. Please note that the U.S. Embassy in Latvia is not an immigrant visa processing post. Therefore, Latvian residents and their petitioners are encouraged to check the web page of Embassy Warsaw at <http://poland.usembassy.gov/visas/immigrant-visas.html> for information on the immigrant visa application process with Embassy Warsaw.

- **Immigrant Visas for Adopted children Processed by Embassy Riga**

Although immigrant visas for Latvian residents are processed by the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw, Poland applications for immigrant visas from Latvian orphans adopted by American citizens are processed by Embassy Riga. Thus the adoptive parents are not required to travel to Poland to apply for immigrant visas for their adopted children.

U.S. citizens willing to adopt in Latvia are advised to visit the web page of the U.S. State Department at http://travel.state.gov/family/adoption/adoption_485.html for both - general information on international adoption and guidance on country specific adoption requirements.

The Central Authority in Latvia for adoption purposes is the Ministry for Children and Family Affairs. Its web page <http://www.bm.gov.lv/eng/> provides guidance to adoptive parents from abroad in English. There are also translations of the Latvian adoption laws posted on the Ministry's web page.

U.S. citizens pursuing or interested in adoption from Latvia are requested to contact the Consular Section of Embassy Riga at tel. + 371 – 6703 6218 or by e-mail at askconsular@usriga.lv.

- **K3 Visas for Spouses of American Citizens Processed by Embassy Riga**

Those spouses of American citizens who are beneficiaries of approved petitions I-129F (Petition for Alien Fiancé (e) available at <http://uscis.gov>) will be contacted by the U.S. Embassy Riga as soon as the approved petition is received by this Embassy. The notification letter from the U.S. Embassy Riga will provide the beneficiary/ies of the approved petition on the documentary requirements and the K3 visa application process.

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Office would normally forward the approved petitions by expedited mail to the K3 visa processing embassies immediately after the approval date.

- **Fiancé(e) Visas (K1) Processed by Embassy Warsaw**

As stated above, Embassy Warsaw is the immigrant visas processing post for Latvian residents. Applications for fiancé(e) visas from Latvian residents who are beneficiaries of approved petition I-129F, therefore, will be processed by Embassy Warsaw.

More information on fiancé(e) visas is available at the website of the American Embassy in Warsaw: <http://usinfo.pl>. The website of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services: <http://uscis.gov> provides guidance on the fiancé(e) petition filing requirements.

! Please consult <http://travel.state.gov/> for other U.S. non-immigrant and immigrant visa classifications.

Foreign Embassies and Consulates in Riga

Austria – Elizabetes iela 15, 4th floor, phone: 67-216-125,

Internet addresses: riga-ob@bmeia.gv.at

Belarus – Jēzusbaznīcas iela 12, phone: 67-322-550

Canada – Baznīcas iela 20/22, phone: 67-813-945,

Internet address: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/canadaeuropa/baltics/> (Canadian Embassy to Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania)

China – Ganību dambis 5, phone: 67-357-023,

Internet addresses: <http://lv.mofcom.gov.cn>

Czech Republic – Elizabetes iela 29a, phone: 67-217-814,

Internet address: <http://www.mfa.cz/riga>

Denmark – L. Pils iela 11, phone: 67-226-210,

Internet addresses: <http://www.ambriga.um.dk>.

Estonia – Skolas iela 13, phone: 67-812-020, Internet address: <http://www.estemb.lv>

Finland – Kalpaka bulvāris 1, phone: 67-078-800,

Internet address: <http://www.finland.lv>.

France – Raiņa bulvāris 9, phone: 67-036-600,

Internet address: <http://www.ambafrance-lv.org>

Germany – Raiņa bulvāris 13, phone: 67-085-100,

Internet address: <http://www.riga.diplo.de>
 Great Britain – Alunāna iela 5, phone: 67-774-700,
 Internet address: <http://www.britain.lv>.
 Iceland, Consulate General – Kr. Valdemāra iela 21, phone: 67-035- 383,
 Internet address: <http://www.islande.lv>
 Israel – Elizabetes iela 2, phone: 67-320-739, Internet address: <http://riga.mfa.gov.il/>
 Italy – Teātra iela 9, phone: 67-216-069, 67-211-507, Internet address:
<http://www.ambriga.esteri.it>
 Japan – Kr. Valdemāra iela 21, phone: 67-812-001
 Lithuania – Rupniecības iela 24, phone: 67-321-519, Internet address: <http://lv.urm.lt>
 Moldova – Basteja bulvāris 14, phone: 67-359-163
 Netherlands – Torņu iela 4, Jacob's Barracks, building 1a, phone: 67-326-147, Internet
 address: <http://www.netherlandsembassy.lv>
 Norway – Zirgu iela 14, phone: 67-814-100, 67-824-110, Internet address:
<http://www.norvegija.lv>.
 Poland – Mednieku iela 6b, phone: 7031500, Internet address: <http://ryga.polemb.net>
 Russia – Antonijas iela 2, phone: 67-212-579, <http://www.latvia.mid.ru>
 Sweden – A. Pumpura iela 8, phone: 67-686-608, Internet address:
<http://www.swedenabroad.com/riga>
 Switzerland – Elizabetes iela 2, 3rd floor, phone: 67-338-353,
 Internet address: <http://www.eda.admin.ch/riga>
 Taipei Mission to Latvia – Elizabetes iela 2a-602, phone: 67-321-166
 Ukraine – Kalpaka bulvāris 3, phone: 67-332-956,
 Internet address: <http://www.ukrainaemb.lv>.
 Uzbekistan – Elizabetes iela 11-11, 2nd floor, phone: 67-322-424,
 Internet address: <http://www.latvia.mfa.uz/>

Visa-free Travel for United States Citizens

Visas are not required to travel to these countries if:

- the purpose of your visit is business or pleasure;
- your stay is less than 30 days (in some cases, it may also be longer);
- In the Schengen countries, U.S. citizens can stay without a visa for a tourist/business stay of up to 90 days. That period begins when you enter any of the Schengen countries.
- certain other conditions are met (please contact the Consular Section or embassies of these countries for details):

Albania	Aruba (Autonomous	Belgium (Schengen)
Andorra (> 90 days)	part of the Netherlands)	Belize
Antigua	Austria (Schengen)	Bermuda
Argentina	Bahamas	Bosnia and Herzegovina
	Barbados (<28 days)	(>3 months)

Botswana (>90 days)
 British Virgin Islands
 British West Indies
 Bulgaria (Schengen)
 Canada
 Cayman Islands
 Colombia (>60 days)
 Costa Rica (>90 days)
 Côte d'Ivoire (>90 days)
 Croatia
 Cyprus (Schengen)
 Czech Republic
 (Schengen)
 Denmark and the Faeroe
 Islands (Schengen)
 Ecuador
 Equatorial Guinea
 Estonia (Schengen)
 Fiji (>4 months)
 Finland (Schengen)
 France (Schengen)
 French Guiana (>90
 days)
 French Polynesia (>1
 month)
 French West Indies (>90
 days)
 Georgia (>90 days)
 Germany (Schengen)
 Gibraltar
 Greece (Schengen)
 Greenland (> 90 days)
 Grenada (>3 months)
 Guatemala (> 90 days)
 Guyana
 Haiti
 Honduras (> 90 days)
 Hong Kong (> 90 days)
 Hungary (Schengen)
 Iceland (Schengen)
 Ireland (Schengen)
 Italy (Schengen)

Jamaica
 Japan (>90 days)
 Korea, Republic of
 (>30days)
 Latvia (Schengen)
 Lesotho (>30days)
 Liechtenstein (>90 days)
 Lithuania (Schengen)
 Luxembourg (Schengen)
 Macau SAR (>30days)
 Macedonia (>90days)
 Malaysia (>30 days)
 Maldives (>30 days)
 Malta (Schengen)
 Marshall Islands
 Mauritius*
 Mexico
 Micronesia, Federated
 States of
 Moldova
 Monaco (>90 days)
 Mongolia (>30days)
 Montenegro (>90days)
 Montserrat
 Morocco (>90days)
 Namibia*
 Netherlands Antilles
 Netherlands (Schengen)
 New Caledonia
 (>30days)
 New Zealand (>90days)
 Nicaragua
 Norway (Schengen)
 Palau (>1 year)
 Papua New Guinea*
 Paraguay
 Peru (> 90 days)
 Philippines (<21 days)
 Poland (Schengen)
 Portugal (Schengen)
 Romania (Schengen)
 Rwanda (> 90 days)

San Marino
 Senegal (> 90 days)
 Serbia (> 90 days)
 Seychelles* (>1month)
 Singapore (> 90 days)
 Slovak Republic
 (Schengen)
 Slovenia (Schengen)
 Somalia*
 Solomon Islands (> 90
 days)
 South Africa (> 90 days)
 South Korea (<15 days)
 Spain (Schengen)
 Sri Lanka* (>30 days)
 St. Kitts & Nevis
 St. Lucia
 St. Vincent and the
 Grenadines
 Swaziland (>60 days)
 Sweden (Schengen)
 Switzerland (Schengen)
 Tahiti
 Taiwan (>30 days)
 Thailand (>30 days)
 Timor-Leste* (>30
 days)
 Tonga (>30 days)
 Trinidad & Tobago (>90
 days)
 Tunisia (>4 months)
 Turks and Caicos
 Tuvalu* (>3 months)
 Ukraine
 United Arab Emirates
 (>60 days)*
 United Kingdom
 (Schengen)
 Uruguay (> 3 months)
 Vanuatu (>30 days)
 Vatican

*-visas are issued at the port of entry

More information on travel to different countries can be obtained from the State Department website, <http://travel.state.gov>. This website includes all Travel Warnings, Public Announcements and Consular Information Sheets. If you do not have current Internet access, you can contact the Consular Section for assistance.

American Embassies in the Neighboring Countries

Belarus – 46 Starovilenskaya St., Minsk 220002, tel: 00-375-17-210-12-83, Internet address: <http://belarus.usembassy.gov/>

Denmark – Dag Hammarskjölds Allé 24, 2100 København Ø, tel: 00-4-535-553-144, Internet address: <http://denmark.usembassy.gov/>. The regional U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services office is also located at this embassy.

Estonia – Kentmanni 20, 15099 Tallinn, tel: 00-372-668-8100, Internet address: <http://www.usemb.ee>

Lithuania – Akmenu gatve 6, Vilnius, LT-03106, tel: 00-370-52-665-500, Internet address: <http://vilnius.usembassy.gov/>

Russia – Bolshoy Deviatinsky Pereulok No. 8, Moscow 121099, tel: 00-7-495- 728-5000, Internet address: <http://www.usembassy.ru>



Latvia Tourism Information on the Web

<http://www.latinst.lv> - Web site of the Latvian Institute. Key information on Latvia, its history, symbols, and other related topics.

<http://www.latviatourism.com> - Tourism information for all districts of Latvia.

<http://www.rigathisweek.lv> - Web site of the popular information booklet, “Riga This Week”. Up-to-date information on current events in Riga.

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/destinations/europe/latvia/> - Web site of the world-famous tour-guide “Lonely Planet”.

<http://www.inyourpocket.com/latvia/en/> - This guide provides information not only on the capital city, but also on the biggest cities in Latvia.

<http://www.rigatourism.lv/EN/Channels/Tip/default.htm> - The Riga City Council tourism portal comprises useful information on sightseeing, culture, accommodation, and transport in Riga.

Tourist Information Centres in Riga

There is a Tourist Information Center in the Riga International Bus Station, Pragas Street 1, telephone: 67-220-555, and also at Ratslaukums 6, telephone: 67-037-900. The Tourist Information Center can assist you with useful information, sell you maps and travel guides, as well as provide other travel-related services. There are similar centers in most Latvian towns or cities.

[**Disclaimer:** The following information has been provided for your convenience only. The Embassy assumes no responsibility for the professional ability or integrity of the individuals or firms listed herein.]



Riga Transport Information

Riga International Airport – Internet address: <http://www.riga-airport.com> (The website includes also flight schedules). The Riga International Airport is located 13km southwest of Riga centre to Jurmala highway (A10).

Riga International Bus Station – Prāgas iela 1; information line – 9000009 (Ls 0.24/min), reservation line – 900-11-11 (Ls 0.35/min). Internet address: <http://www.autoosta.lv/>

Train station – Gogoļa iela 3; information line: 1181 (calling from abroad: 00-371-67-31- -81), Internet address: <http://www.ldz.lv>. (See: passenger traffic)

Ferry station – Eksporta iela 3a; information line: 67-099-700.
Information of ferries can be also found on: <http://www.pramis.lv/>

Airline Information

Please note that only city centre addresses have been indicated. All airlines (plus CSA, Lufthansa and Spedair) have offices in the airport.

Finnair (Finnish airlines)

Riga Airport

Phone: 67-207-010

Hours: 09:00 – 17:30 (Mon-Fri)

9:30-13:00 (Sat-Sun)

AirBaltic

Elizabetes iela 85a

Hours: 09:00-18:00 (Mon-Fri)

10:00 – 16:00 (Sat)

Phone: 67-226-355

LOT (Polish airlines)

Riga Airport

Phone: 67-207-113

AirBaltic/SAS

Riga Airport

Phone: 67-207-069



Ferry Information

Tallink Latvia (operates a line to Stockholm, Sweden)

Rīga, Eksporta iela 3a

Phone: 67-323-730

DFDS Tourlines (operates a line to Luebeck, Germany)

Rīga, Zivju iela 1

Phone: 67-846-777



Taxis in Riga

Bona M – 8000-50-50

Riga Taxi – 8000-10-10

Rīgas Taksometru parks – 8000-13-13

Taxi LV – 8000-99-22

Taxi SV – 8000-80-70

Taxi Smile – 8000-14-44

All lines mentioned above are toll-free. However, a taxi can be ordered also via directory assistance 1188. Rate per min is about 0.30 santims (depending on the operator).

Car Rental

Avis – Internet address: <http://www.avis.lv>, tel: (Office in Lāčplēša iela 92) 67-225-876; (in Riga airport) 67-207-353.

Europcar – tel: (Office in Riga Airport) 67-207-825;
(Office in Basteja bulvāris 10) 67-222-637

Hertz – Internet address: www.hertz.lv, tel: (Office in Riga Airport) 67-207-980; (Office in Aspazijas bulvāris 24) 67-224-223.



Hotels in Riga

Information on hotels in Latvia can be retrieved from website <http://www.allhotels.lv>
Hotels in this list have been arranged according to prices and quality, starting from the upmarket ones.

Grand Palace Hotel *****

Pils iela 12
Phone: 67-044-000
E-mail: grandpalace@schlossle-hotels.com
Website: <https://www.grandpalaceriga.com/>

Reval Hotel Rīdzene *****

Reimersa iela 1
Phone: 67-324-433
E-mail: ridzene@revalhotels.com
Website: <http://www.revalhotels.com>

Radisson SAS Daugava Hotel *****

Kuģu iela 24
Phone: 67-061-111
E-mail: info@radissonsas.lv
Website: <http://www.riga.radissonsas.com>

Gutenbergs Hotel ****

Doma laukums 1
Phone: 67-814-090
E-mail: hotel@gutenbergs.lv
Website: <http://www.gutenbergs.lv>

Maritim Park Hotel Riga****

Slokas iela 1
Phone: 67-069-000
E-mail: info.rig@matitim.lv
Website: <http://www.maritim.lv>

Metropole Hotel ****

Aspazijas bulvāris. 36/38
Phone: 67-225-411
E-mail: metropole@metropole.lv
Website: <http://www.metropole.lv>

Hotel Irina ***

Merķeļa iela 12
Phone: 67-224-546
E-mail: reservations@hotelirina.lv
Website: www.hotelirina.lv

Radi un Draugi ***

Mārstaļu iela 1/3
Phone: 67-820-200
E-mail: radi.reservation@draugi.lv
Website: <http://www.draugi.lv>

TIA ***

Krišjāņa Valdemāra iela 63
Phone: 67-333-918
E-mail: tia@tia.lv
Website: www.tia.lv

Valdemārs **

Kr. Valdemāra iela 23
Phone: 67-334-462
E-mail: reservations@valdemars.lv
Website: <http://www.valdemars.lv>

Konventa Sēta ***

Kalēju iela 9/11
Phone: 67-087-501, Fax: 67-087-515
E-mail: reservation@konventa.lv
Website: <http://www.konventa.lv>

ECB Bed and Breakfast **

Kr. Barona iela 37
Phone: 67-298-535
E-mail: ecb@ecb.apollo.lv
Website: <http://www.myeceb.lv>

Hotels in Biggest Latvian Cities

Cēsis

Kolonna Hotel Cēsis Hotel ***
Vienības laukums 1, Cēsis
Phone: 412-01-22
E-mail: hotel@danlat-group.lv
Website: <http://www.hotelcesis.lv>

Jelgava

Hotel Jelgava ***
Lielā iela 6, Jelgava
Phone: 63-026-193
E-mail: info@hoteljelgava.lv
Website: <http://www.hoteljelgava.lv>

Blankenfelde Country House
“Blankenfeldes muiža”, Vilces pagasts,
Jelgava district
Phone: 63-064-536

Kuldīga

Jāņa nams ***
Liepājas iela 36, Kuldīga
Phone: 63-323-456
Website: <http://jananams.lv>

Valmiera

Wolmar Hotel ***
Tērbatas iela 16a
Valmiera
Phone: 64-207-301
E-mail: wolmar@valm.lv

Burtnieki guesthouse
Jaunatnes 9,
Burtnieku pagasts, Valmieras rajons
Phone: 64-256-305, 9-124-573
Fax: 64-256-433

Daugavpils

Park Hotel Latgola ***
Ģimnāzijas iela 46, Daugavpils
Phone: 5404-900
E-mail: reception@hoteldaugavpils.lv
Website: <http://www.hotellatgola.lv>

Leo ***
Krāslavas iela 58, Daugavpils
Phone: 65-426-565
E-mail: lauma@apollo.lv

Liepāja

Amrita ****
Rīgas iela 7, Liepāja
Phone: 63-480-888
Email: info@amrita.lv
Website: <http://www.hotelamrita.lv>

Līva ***
Lielā iela 11, Liepāja
Phone: 63-420-102
E-mail: info@liva.lv
Website: <http://www.liva.lv>

Rēzekne

Latgale **
Atbrīvošanas aleja 98, Rēzekne
Phone: 64-622-180
E-mail: info@hotellatgale.lv
Website: <http://www.hotellatgale.lv>

Ventspils

Dzintarjūra ***
Ganību iela 26, Ventspils
Phone: 63-622-719
E-mail: dzintarjura@apollo.lv
Website: www.dzintrajura.lv

Vilnis ***
Talsu iela 5, Ventspils
Phone: 63-668-880
Website: www.vilnis.lv
E-mail: hotelvilnis@apollo.lv

Churches in Riga

For various denominations:

Lutheran

The Dome Cathedral
Herdera laukums 6
Telephone: 67-227-573

St. Peter's Church
Skārņu iela 19
Telephone: 67-229-426

St. John's Church
Jāņa iela 7
Telephone: 67-224-028

Roman Catholic

St. Jacob's Cathedral
Klostera iela 2
Telephone: 67-326-419

Anglican

St. Saviour's Church
Anglikāņu iela 2a
Telephone: 67-222-259

Orthodox

The Orthodox Cathedral
Brīvības bulvāris 23
Telephone: 67-211-201

Baptist

International Church of
Riga
Baptist Union Building
Lāčplēša iela 37
Telephone: 67450798



Restaurants in Riga

TGI Friday's

Kaļķu iela 6,
Hours: 12:00-01:00
Phone: 67-229-070

Patio Pizza

Kaļķu iela 6
Hours: 12:00-24:00
Phone: 67-220-758

McDonald's

Basteja bulvāris 18,
Hours: 07:00-01:00,
Saturday: 07:00-02:00
Phone: 67-226-346

Pizza Malibu

Kaļķu iela 12/14,
Hours: 11:00-24:00
Friday, Saturday: 12:00-01:00
Phone: 67-222-206

Sue's Indian Raja (Indian)

Vecpilsētas iela 3,
Hours: 12:00-23:00, Phone: 67-212-614
Website: <http://www.indianraja.lv/>

Nataraja (Indian)

Mazā Smilšu iela 17
Phone: 67-226-662

Lido Dzirnava (Latvian)

Dzirnavu iela 74/76,
Phone: 67-284-228, Hours: 08:00-23:00
Sunday: 9:00-22:00
Website: <http://www.lido.lv>

Lido Vermanītis (Latvian)

Elizabetes iela 65,
Hours: 08:00-22:00, Phone: 67-286-289,
Website: <http://www.lido.lv>

Šefpavārs Vilhelms (pancakes)

Šķūņu iela 6

Phone: 67-228-214

Hours: 09:00-22:00

Saturday: 10:00-23:00

Sunday: 10:00-22:00



Educational Opportunities for Foreigners

International School of Riga

Educational level: Primary school

Age: students aged 3 to 12

Address: Zvejnieku iela 12, Rīga

Phone: 6762-4622

Website: <http://www.isriga.lv/>

Study language: English

International School of Latvia

Educational level: Pre-school level through High school

Age: Students aged 2 to 18

Address: Viestura iela 6a, Jūrmala

Phone: 6775-5018

Website: <http://www.isl.edu.lv/>

Study language: English

School year: begins in August and finishes in June.

The list of accredited educational establishments in Latvia is available at:

<http://www.aiknc.lv/en/index.php>

Translating and Interpreting Services in Riga

Skrivanek

Brīvības iela 40 – 18

(backyard entrance, 3rd floor)

Phone: 6724-0364

Amber Line

Brīvības iela 109-16

Phone: 6738-5610

Grafit

Baznīcas iela 32 - 5

(3rd floor)

Phone: 2233-2787



Useful Expressions in Latvian

Greetings:

Hello! - Labdien

Good morning - Labrīt

Good evening - Labvakar

Hi! (between friends) - Čau

Good bye - Uz redzēšanos

All the best, Bye - Visu labu

Polite phrases:

Yes, please / No thanks - Jā, lūdzu / Nē, paldies

You look nice - Jūs izskatieties jauki

I love you - Es tevi mīlu

Thank you - Paldies

Welcome - Laipni lūdzam

Excuse me - Atvainojiet

How are you? - Kā Jums iet?

Thanks, I'm fine - Paldies, labi

O.K / Bad - Normāli / Slikti

Merry Christmas - Priecīgus Ziemassvētkus

Happy New Year - Laimīgu jauno gadu

Happy birthday - Apsveicu dzimšanas dienā

Conversations:

My name is... - Mani sauc ...

What is your name? - Kā jūs sauc?

I don't understand - Es nesaprotu

This one, please - Lūdzu, dodiet man šo

How much is it? - Cik tas maksā?

Do you speak English? - Vai Jūs runājat angļiski?

I don't speak Latvian - Es nerunāju latviski

What time is it? - Cik ir pulkstenis?

Can I see your passport, please - Lūdzu, Jūsu pasi

Signs:

Entrance / Exit - Ieeja / Izeja

Push/ Pull - Grūst/ Vilkst

No smoking - Nesmēķēt

Free admission - Ieeja brīva

Private / No admittance - Nepiederošām personām ieeja aizliegta

Currency Exchange - Valūtas maiņa (Lats – Official currency of Latvia)

Directions & Numbers:

Excuse me, where is the U.S. Embassy? – Atvainojiet, kur atrodas ASV vēstniecība?

Department store, grocery store - Universālveikals/ pārtikas veikals

Pharmacy/ bakery/ dry cleaning - Aptieka/ maizes veikals/ ķīmiskā tīrītava

To the right, to the left, stright, back - Pa labi, pa kreisi, taisni. atpakaļ

1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10 - Viens, divi, trīs, četri, pieci, seši, septiņi, astoņi, deviņi desmit

Weather:

What is the weather going to be today? - Kāds šodien būs laiks?

Cold/ warm/ nice/ rainy / snow/ wind - Auksts/ silts / jauks/ lietains/ sniegs/ vējš

Emergency situations:

Help! - Palīgā!

Quickly - Ātri

Police - Policija

Ambulance / First aid - Ātrā palīdzība

I missed my flight - Es nokavēju lidmašīnu

I've lost my money/ passport - Es pazaudēju naudu/ pasi

I need an interpreter - Man ir vajadzīgs tulks

I don't feel well/ I'm ill/ I've got a cold - Es nejūtos labi/ Es esmu slimš/ Es esmu saaukstējies

I've lost my way - Es esmu apmaldījies